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REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 2, 2004 wherein Claims 1-16 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 12 have been amended, Claim 8 has been cancelled, and Claims 17 has been added. Claims 1-7 and 9-17 remain pending.

Objection to Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and stated that reference character 20 has been used twice. Applicants have not been able to identify a reference 20 in the specification or figures. Reference numeral 20 has not been used in the present patent application.

Objections to the Claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 7 was objected to due to informalities. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to address the informalities.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-12, and 16 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Bush et al. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2, 3, and 13-15 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Bush et al. On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hepburn et al. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7, and 12 to better describe the present invention as a system used to remove sulfur from a catalytic converter. Bush et al. and Hepburn et al. are completely silent with respect to removing sulfur from a catalytic converter. Furthermore, Hepburn et al. is focused on a NOx trap and not a catalytic converter. A NOx trap is not a catalytic converter, as is known in the art. Bush et al. and Hepburn et al., singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present claimed invention. If the Examiner relies on personal knowledge that the operation of the apparatus of the present invention is obvious in light of the cited art, Applicants respectfully request support for this assertion in the form of an affidavit that shall be subject to contradiction or explanation by the affidavits of the Applicant and other persons under 37 C.F.R. 1.104 (d)(2).

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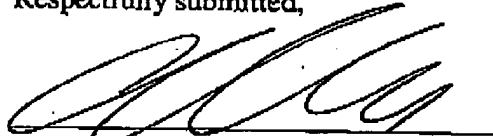
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Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated September 14, 2004 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, as well as one-month extension fee please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for the fees, which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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